

Organization: Northampton Civic League

Meeting Date: March 5, 2013

in Attendance: 9

- When is the deadline for the budget to be in?
- Is there a decline or increase in the number of children attending Hampton schools? Is that decline in certain areas of the City? Can we consolidate additional schools?
- How does changing to seven periods save two million dollars for the schools? Would this impact high school and junior high? I went to school and had seven periods.
- Would you spend more time going to and from class so you lose instruction time?
- We live in a faster paced world today. If you have only four classes per day, it's easier to do four things in a day than seven. It's better for the child; easier to focus.
- I grew up in New York, with 7 periods of 50 minutes. We had a school tax; everyone paid the school tax in NY. Raising revenue from homeowner taxes is limited doesn't it only hit homeowners?
- You're focused on this year. What happens next year?
- What are the projections for tax revenue from Fort Monroe?
- It may be years to get some of these issues resolved between the state and federal governments regarding Fort Monroe?
- When you say we might get land from Fort Monroe, who do you mean?
- The first item on the list of cuts refers to cuts to organizations. Who are those organizations?
- Why is Christopher Newport on the list? How much more do we owe them? It was our word, not a legal contract?
- In dollar amounts, what is the total estimated City budget? I think the budget last year was considerably over \$400 million. For example, in sanitation (garbage and recycling) how many millions does that take? Throughout the year, there are Monday holidays so that multiple times a year, people go 9-10 days between pickups. Why can't we decrease the frequency of pickup throughout the year to save money? Also, people do not handle their trash properly. Does the City budget general tax cover trash pickup? Does the City general fund pay for storm drainage?
- How much unused property does the City currently have on its books? Have we looked at selling some of it to raise money for the City?
- I've looked at these cuts. I don't want to see classrooms with sizes increased. I don't want to see people lose their jobs. Where can you reduce hours, but save jobs?
- Do not cut Bluebird Gap Farm.
- If citizens decide to up the tax rate this year, and things don't go well, what would you do next year?
- Has the City thought about raising the sales tax?
- Is the poll online?
- Let's take care of our children. Let's preserve programs that engage our young children. It helps cut down on crime. There's a larger impact to these cuts.